**The Miller, His Son, and Their Donkey**

One day, a miller and his son set off to sell their

donkey at a fair. Their donkey carried their luggage, and

they walked beside him. Soon they met some women.

"You're walking? How silly! You could ride!” one said.

So the miller made his son ride the donkey.

Then they met some old men. One said, "See that

lazy boy ride the donkey? His poor old father has to walk!”

So the son got down and the miller rode the donkey.

Then they met some women and children. "Why, you

mean old man!" one woman shouted. "Your poor little boy

has to run to keep up with you on your donkey!” So the

miller told his son to ride, too.

When they were almost at the fair, they met a judge.

He said, “Your poor old donkey has to carry you *and* your

luggage? Why, you two could carry *him* easier than he

can carry *you*."

So the miller and his son got down. They tied the

donkey's feet together. They put a pole between his legs

and turned him upside down. Then they carried their own

donkey on the pole!

As they crossed a bridge, a crowd gathered to laugh

at the silly sight. The laughter made the donkey angry. He

broke free from the pole—and fell into the river. So the old

miller went home. By trying to please everybody, he had

pleased nobody. And he lost his donkey, too.

Questions:

1. Was the miller a kind man? How can you tell?
2. Why do you think the miller kept doing what people

said?

1. Was it smart to keep doing what each group said?

Why or why not?

1. Do you think the people liked the miller because he

did what they said?

Choose 1 and answer with 2 paragraphs:

1. Have you ever tried to make everyone happy at

once? What happened? Did it work?

1. The miller tried to make *everyone* happy.

Which people do you try to make happy? Your

parents? Your friends? Someone else? Why?

1. When it would be better *not* to make someone happy?